

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01 A-01
MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
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R 310528Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2964

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WELLINGTON 1183

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

NOFORN

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AMGT, FJ
SUBJECT: PARM - ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT -
PARTS II AND III

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM INITIALLY PREPARED IN SUVA AS SUVA 0396,
HAS BEEN REVIEWED, REVISED AND EXTENDED BY THE AMBASSADOR.

PART II - RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS.

A. STATE

1. EMBASSY SUVA, THE SMALLEST IN EA, IS HEADED BY THE AMBASSADOR,
RESIDENT IN WELLINGTON, AND HAS FIVE STATE POSITIONS: A CHARGE
(DCM) WHO SUPERVISES DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS AND PURSUES UNDER
THE SUPERVISION OF THE AMBASSADOR, ALL COURSES OF ACTION PROPOSED
IN PART I; AN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER (DPO) WHO ASSISTS
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IN CARRYING OUT ALL COURSES OF ACTION WITH STRESS ON ITEMS
1.A AND 1.D.; V A CONSULAR OFFICER WHOSE DUTIES ARE ALMOST
WHOLLY CONSULAR; A CRO, AND A SECRETARY AS SUPPORT STAFF.
AS IN ANY SMALL POST VARIOUS FUNCTIONS ARE OCCASIONALLY PERFORMED
BY ALL OFFICERS. THERE IS NO FLEXIBILITY IN NUMBERS AT SUVA TO
PERMIT A FINER FOCUS OF RESOURCES. IN FACT, THE SUBSTANTIVE
POLITICAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CHARGE ARE HAMPERED BY

THE REQUIREMENT THAT HE ACT AS POST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. THE NEED TO PERFORM AS PAO AND CAO HAMPERS THE SUBSTANTIVE PERFORMANCE AND NECESSARY TRAVEL OF THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER, WHO ALSO MUST ASSIST WITH CONSULAR WORK ON OCCASION.

B. OTHER AGENCY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE LEVELS.

1. THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS IN FIJI AND TONGA, AS NOTED ELSEWHERE, ARE WELCOME MANIFESTATIONS OF AMERICAN IDEALISM, TRADITIONS OF SERVICE TO OTHERS, AND OF OUR INTEREST IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS AND PEOPLES. THEIR CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES, PROJECTED TO PHASE DOWNWARD, WILL I BELIEVE LEAVE A POSITIVE LEGACY AS DID OUR EDUCATIONAL EFFORT BEFORE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE. THE PEACE CORPS HAS SHOWN ITSELF SENSITIVE TO CHANGING NEEDS AND HOST GOVT REQUESTS, AND ITS NEW PROGRAMS WILL STRESS DEVELOPMENT, BUT NOT TO THE EXCLUSION OF EDUCATION AND MIDDLE-LEVEL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE. THE FORMER WILL REMAIN MAJOR, OWING IN LARGE PART TO RECRUITMENT CONSIDERATIONS.

2. HOWEVER, IN MY VIEW BOTH PROGRAMS ARE MUCH TOO LARGE IN TERMS OF VOLUNTEER NUMBERS. PROJECTIONS THROUGH FY 1979 SHOW FIGURES FOR ANY ONE MONTH IN FIJI RISING AS HIGH AS 211, AND AS LOW AS 127, OWING TO ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FLUCTUATIONS. MOSTLY, MONTHLY TOTALS HOVER AROUND THE 180 MARK, THOUGH THE YEAR-END AVERAGE FOR FY 1979 DROPS TO 173, EXPRESSED IN MAN-YEARS.
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3. THIS UPWARD TREND IN RECENT YEARS HAS RESULTED IN A VISIBILITY PROBLEM, ALLEGATIONS THAT JOBS WHICH FIJIANS MIGHT OTHERWISE OCCUPY ARE FILLED FROM THE PEACE CORPS, AND A RECENT PERSONAL OBSERVATION BY THE HEAD OF THE GOF PLANNING COUNCIL THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF TOO MANY VOLUNTEERS HAS INHIBITED THE PERMANENT STAFFING OF IMPORTANT POSITIONS RESULTING IN DISCONTINUITY OF FUNCTION. SOME EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO PROGRAM MORE PCV JOBS OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL TO REDUCE VISIBILITY. THAT IS TO THE GOOD BUT DOES NOT LOWER MUCH OUR PROFILE IN A COUNTRY OF 500,000 PLUS. I RECOMMEND THAT THE BASE FIGURE FOR FIJI BE PLACED AT NO MORE THAN 150 VOLUNTEERS, SURELY MORE THAN ENOUGH TO IMPRESS A COUNTRY OF THIS SIZE WITH OUR INTEREST.(THE FY 1977 PEACE CORPS BUDGET IS DOL 850,000; FY 1978 IS DOL 1.02 MILLION.

4. IN TONGA, WHERE THE POPULATION IS BUT ONE-FIFTH THAT OF FIJI'S, I SUGGEST THAT A SERIOUS CASE OF PEACE CORPS OVERKILL

HAS DEVELOPED, A TRIBUTE, REALLY, TO THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PEACE CORPS. WE SHOULD MOVE TO CONTROL THIS, AND I SUGGEST THAT THE NUMBERS OF VOLUNTEERS BE GRADUALLY REDUCED TO NO MORE THAN 50.

5. THE USIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN RUN BY AN FSO (ALSO DPO AND E/C OFFICER) AT NO COST TO THE AGENCY. A USIS POST SHOULD NOW BE OPENED HERE WITH REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, REFLECTING OUR INCREASED CONCERN WITH THE SOUTH PACIFIC. WE ESTIMATE THIS WOULD REQUIRE DOL 50,000 IN FY 1978 OR FY 1979 FUNDS. THIS IS AN URGENT MATTER SINCE THE CURRENT SUPERVISOR, EXPERT AND INTERESTED IN USIS AFFAIRS, WILL LEAVE THIS SUMMER. HIS SUCCESSOR HAS HAD NO EXPERIENCE IN THE FUNCTION AND THE PROGRAM WILL INEVITABLY DECLINE IN EFFECTIVENESS. THE AGENCY SHOULD MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE FINE PROGRAM NOW IN OPERATION HERE. WE ARE AWARE OF STRICTURES
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EARLIER IMPOSED BY CONGRESS ON OPENING NEW USIS POSTS, BUT RECENT CLOSURE OF VIENTIANE SHOULD FACILITATE OPENING HERE.

PART III - STATE PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. REPROGRAMMING.

NOT FEASIBLE SINCE EMBASSY AMERICAN STAFF TOTALS FIVE.

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MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
/066 W

-----312331Z 110038 /14

R 310528Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2965

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WELLINGTON 1183

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

NOFORN

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

B. INCREASES/DECREASES

1. THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AT EMBASSY SUVA, FORMERLY A TWO-OFFICER CONSULATE, HAS INCREASED THE ADMINISTRATIVE WORKLOAD TO THE POINT THAT THE CHARGE'S ATTENTION TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION IS AT SIGNIFICANT EXPENSE TO HIS SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES, WHICH RELATE, OF COURSE, DIRECTLY TO PURSUING ACTION COURSES IN PART I. HOUSING, LEASES, TRANSPORTATION, EQUIPMENT, BUDGET CONCERNS AND AN INCREASING STREAM OF GSO MINUTIAE MUST BE GIVEN HEED AND DIVERTS ATTENTION FROM CONTACT WORK, REPORTING, OBSERVATION AND NECESSARY TRAVEL WITHIN SUVA'S VAST DISTRICT. AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER POSITION IS ESSENTIAL AT THIS POST, AND WILL BECOME UNAVOIDABLE WHEN AN AMBASSADOR IS ASSIGNED HERE. THE POSITION, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND FILLED IN FY 1978 AS CORE. WITH THE HOPED-FOR POSTING OF A PROFESSIONAL PAO, THE
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POSITION WOULD PRESUMABLY BECOME DAS. ESTIMATED FUNDING REQUIRED IN FY 1978 OR FY 1979: DOL 50,000.

2. THE POSITION CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER IS A CONSULAR SLOT. THIS SHOULD BE CHANGED TO POL/EC TO REFLECT ITS TRUE FUNCTION AS A SUBSTANTIVE POSITION RELATING TO PURSUIT OF THE INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN PART I. ONLY 50 PER CENT OF THE DPO'S TIME IS SPENT ON ECON/COMMERCIAL WORK, WHICH IS INSUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS LEVIED BY CERP, TO FILL REQUESTS FOR WTDRS AND TO PROCESS TOPS, TO ANSWER CORRESPONDENCE AND PERSONAL INQUIRIES, AND TO ENGAGE IN AN ACTIVE TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAM. SHIFTING OF THE INFORMATION/CULTURAL WORK TO A FULLTIME FSIO WOULD GREATLY IMPROVE THE SITUATION. WITH THE ADVENT OF A SMALL AID PROGRAM IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, TO BE MONITORED IN PART BY THIS EMBASSY, THERE WILL BE A QUANTUM INCREASE IN THE WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS POSITION, AND IN REQUIRED TRAVEL.

THE INCUMBENT ALSO SERVES AS A BACKUP CONSULAR OFFICER IN THE ABSENCE OF THE VICE CONSUL/HEAD OF THE CONSULAR SECTION. THE ECON/COMMERCIAL POSITION COULD BE RELIEVED OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES BY THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (PART III B 1.) WHO WOULD SERVE AS AN ADMIN/CONSULAR OFFICER, GIVEN SUFFICIENT TRAINING. THE CONSULAR OFFICER IS FULLY EMPLOYED, AND HER WORKLOAD IS SLOWLY BUT STEADILY INCREASING AS MORE ISLANDERS TRAVEL AND IMMIGRATE AND MORE AMERICANS VISIT THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

C. LOWER PRIORITY POSITIONS.

NONE. LESS THAN TWELVE AMERICAN POSITIONS.

MISSION STAFFING CHART

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AGENCY/FUNCTION	CURRENT FY 77			
	AMER. OFFS.	AMER. STAFF	FSL PROF.	FSL STAFF
STATE (TOTAL)	3	2	4	1
EXECUTIVE	1	1		
POLITICAL				
ECON/COMMERCIAL	1			
ADMIN (OF WHICH)			1	1
COMMUNICATIONS		1		
CONSULAR	1	3		
OTHER AGENCIES				
USIS		1		
PEACE CORPS	3		5	2

PROJECTED BY FY 79

AGENCY/FUNCTION	AMER. OFFS.	AMER. STAFF	FSL PROF.	FSL STAFF
STATE (TOTAL)	4	2	4	2
EXECUTIVE	1	1	1	
POLITICAL				
ECON/COMMERCIAL	1			
CONSULAR	1	3		
ADMIN (OF WHICH)	1		1	1
COMMUNICATIONS		1		

' REFLECTS FULL-TIME FSL DRIVER FOR AMBASSADOR (CHARGE) WHO WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE RESIDENT IN SUVA BY FY 1979.

" WOULD BE POL/EC POSITION

" WOULD BE ADMIN/CON POSITION.
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